



Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
New International Version

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 (NIV)

¹⁶“To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

¹⁷“We played the pipe for you,
and you did not dance;
we sang a dirge,
and you did not mourn.”

¹⁸For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon.’ ¹⁹The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.”

²⁵At that time Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. ²⁶Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

²⁷“All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”



Sermon Notes

To what can we compare this generation?

ANTS: frantic, crisis mode, motion without meaning

LION-TAMER: distracted, weak, easily controlled

DOG-TIRED: listless, exhausted, unmotivated

Why follow Jesus?

RELEASE the weariness and the control

- i. **Accept the yoke** – share the burden of living
- ii. **Learn from me** – do what I do, live as I live.
- iii. **Labor for the Kingdom** - in light of eternity

Restore a BALANCED Life

- i. Meaningful Work -
- ii. Playful / Creative Release
- iii. Love and Healthy Relationships
- iv. Worship – Aligned with a God’s Eye-View

Find Rest for your SOUL

My feet are tired, but my soul is rested!

LIVING WORD

Jesus says, *“To what can I compare this generation? It is like CHILDREN PLAYING A GAME.... They complain to their friends, ‘We played wedding songs, and YOU DIDN’T DANCE, so we played funeral songs, and you didn’t mourn’ ... But wisdom is shown to be right by its results.”* (Mt 11:16-19 NLT)

What is Jesus getting at here? We are fickle, contrary and unwilling to commit. No matter what was suggested, they did not want to do it; and no matter what was offered, they found a fault in it. John lived a life of an OT Prophet and they called him “mad”, Jesus came eating and greeting everyone to show us how to have life abundantly and we call him a socialite.

If people are determined to make no response to God, they will remain stubbornly critical no matter what invitation is made to them. Grown men and women can be very much like spoiled children who refuse to play no matter what the game is. If they are in charge then no one else can be, including God.

The people criticized John for his strange appearance, but John moved their hearts to God as no one had moved them for centuries; the Jews might criticized Jesus for mixing too much in the ordinary life with sinners, but in him people were finding new life and new access to God. You can criticize John and Jesus for their methods, you cannot criticize their results.

If I was to translate it into our culture I think Jesus is saying something like this... “You want Me to dance to the music you are playing the way you like to play it, according to your preferences, but you don’t realize that it is WAY OUT OF TUNE. I am waiting for you to ASK ME TO PLAY the music of eternity that was written for you by God Himself. I am waiting for you to dance and sing and live in harmony with Me and yourself.”

Life, like a dance, requires someone to lead and one to follow.